

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2, 4, 16, 24, 25, and 26, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and amends claims 1, 3, 10, 15, 22, and 23 to more appropriately define the invention. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 17-23 are pending in this application.

In the Advisory Action dated June 16, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 24 were objected to and claims 1-3, 5-23, 25, and 26 were rejected. In the prior Office Action of December 4, 2002, the Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 24 were drawn to allowable subject matter, but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Masayuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,488); rejected claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masayuki in view of Kasa (U.S. Patent No. 5,179,536); and rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masayuki in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,609). Applicant respectfully reiterates the traversal of these rejections.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, and 15 to include the allowable subject matter recited in canceled claim 4. For example, claim 1 recites a combination including, among other things, "an identifying unit which includes a memory unit selecting circuit for selecting the memory unit on the basis of an identifier assigned to the memory unit and the memory unit selecting signal, and an identifier generating circuit, wherein the identifier generating circuit is an adder circuit for carrying the identifier of the memory unit by a half bit and generating identifiers for other memory" (emphasis added). Claim 10 recites a combination including, among other things, "an

identifying unit which is provided outside the memory unit and includes a memory unit selecting circuit for selecting the memory unit on the basis of an identifier assigned thereto and a memory unit selecting signal, and an identifier generating circuit, wherein the identifier generating circuit is an adder circuit for carrying the identifier of the memory unit by a half bit and generating identifiers for other memory units" (emphasis added). And claim 15 recites a combination including, among other things, "a first identifying unit including: a first memory unit selecting circuit for selecting the first memory unit on the basis of a first identifier assigned thereto and the memory unit selection signal; and a first identifier generating circuit, wherein the first identifier generating circuit is a first adder circuit for carrying the first identifier of the first memory unit by a half bit and generating a second identifier for the second memory unit" (emphasis added). Accordingly, claims 1, 10, and 15 are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, taken alone, or in combination. The Examiner should thus allow claims 1, 10, and 15.

Dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 11, 12, 13, 14; 17, and 18, 19, 20, 21 depend from one of allowable claims 1, 10, and 15, respectively. Accordingly, these dependent claims are allowable at least due to their dependence from allowable claims. The Examiner should thus allow dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

Additionally, by this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 22 to include the allowable subject matter recited in canceled claim 24. Claim 22 recites a combination including, among other things, "an identifying unit including an identifier generating circuit provided with a fuse element and a resistor element, wherein the resistor element

has a resistance value which is higher than a resistance value of the fuse element for
generating an identifier assigned to the memory unit, and a memory unit selecting circuit
for selecting the memory unit on the basis of an identifier assigned thereto and the
memory unit selecting signal" (emphasis added). Accordingly, claim 22 is neither
disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, taken alone, or in combination. The
Examiner should thus allow claims 1, 10, and 15.

Finally, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 4, 16, 24, 25, and 26 without prejudice
or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The rejection of these claims is therefore
rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration
and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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